

Message Text

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ACTION AF-06

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-02

INR-07 L-02 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

USIA-06 SAM-01 A-01 OPR-02 SY-05 OC-05 CCO-00 COME-00

EB-07 LAB-04 SIL-01 IO-10 SCCT-01 /100 W

----- 122683

P 011210Z MAY 75

FM AMCONSUL LUANDA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 3492

INFO AMEMBASSY LISBON PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY KINSHASA PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY LUSAKA PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY PRETORIA PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY LONDON PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY BELGRADE PRIORITY

AMCONSUL CAPE TOWN PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY PARIS

CINCLANT FOR POLAD

CINCEUR FOR POLAD

C O N F I D E N T I A L LUANDA 0502

E.O. 11652: AGDS - JUNE 30, 1975

TAGS: MILI PINT PINS AO

SUBJECT: LUANDA SITREP, 1100Z MAY 1 1975

1. INTENSE, WIDESPREAD VIOLENCE CONTINUED IN LUANDA DURING THE EVENING OF APRIL 30-MAY 1 AND EXPLOSIONS AND SHOOTING ARE CONTINUING DURING THE MORNING OF MAY 1, WITH NO INDICATION WHEN CONTROL WOULD BE RE-ESTABLISHED. A 2100-0600 CURFEW WAS ORDERED FOR APRIL 30 AND GENERALLY HONORED BY CIVILIANS.

2. WE HAVE REPORTS THAT PORTUGUESE TROOPS ENGAGED MPLA TROOPS AND IRREGULARS IN A SMALL FIRE-FIGHT NEAR THE AIRPORT.
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THE PORTUGUESE SOLDIERS WERE CALLED IN BY WHITE CIVILIANS

WHO WERE STOPPED FROM EVACUATING THEIR HOMES BY MPLA TROOPS AND ARMED MPLA CIVILIANS. MPLA APPARENTLY WANTED TO ARREST THE WHITES OR CONFISCATE THEIR GOODS, AND THEY WERE THREATENING THE LIVES OF THE WHITES. THE PORTUGUESE TROOPS DID PROTECT THE WHITES AND FORCED OFF THE MPLA CONTINGENT. THIS IS THE FIRST INSTANCE OF ARMED INVOLVEMENT BY THE PORTUGUESE TROOPS IN MANY MONTHS.

3. THE YUGOSLAV FREIGHTER WITH ARMS FOR MPLA, M/S POSTOYNA, DOCKED IN LUANDA ON APRIL 29 DESPITE FNLA AND UNITA PROTESTS. WE HAVE RELIABLE REPORTS THAT AT 1700 ON APRIL 29 MPLA TROOPS OCCUPIED THE ENTIRE DOCK AREA FORCING MOST DOCKWORKERS AND THE PORTUGUESE POLICE TO LEAVE. THEY OFF-LOADED AT LEAST SIX LARGE TRUCKS, COVERED COMPLETELY WITH CANVAS, AND AFTER DARK DROVE THEM OFF IN AN UNLIGHTED CONVOY. PORTUGUESE POLICE REPORTED THE TRUCKS HAD THE NAME TATASA ON THE HOOD. IT IS POSSIBLE OTHER WAR MATERIALS WERE ALSO OFF-LOADED. ON APRIL 30 THE PORTUGUESE FORCED THE SHIP TO LEAVE THE HARBOR AND, IN A JOINT COMMUNIQUE, MPLA "PROMISED" NOT TO OFF-LOAD ANY EQUIPMENT FROM THE BOAT.

4. A SOUTH AFRICAN CITIZEN WHO HAS GIVEN US RELIABLE INFORMATION IN THE PAST AND IS NOT GIVEN TO HYPERBOLE TOLD US OF THE FOLLOWING CONVERSATION WITH THE MPLA POLITICAL COMMISSAR WHO HAS OCCUPIED HIS VERANDA FOR THE PAST THREE DAYS. "MPLA HAS HAD ENOUGH OF THIS TYPE OF WARFARE AND WILL ATTACK FNLA TODAY (MAY 1), INCLUDING FNLA OUTPOSTS IN THE EUROPEAN SECTOR OF THE CITY. AFTER FINISHING WITH FNLA, THE COMMISSAR SAID, THE AMERICANS WILL BE NEXT." THE COMMISSAR MAY BE SPORTING HIS OWN RHETORIC AND TO DATE THERE HAVE BEEN NO, RPT NO INSTANCES OF DELIBERATE ANTI-AMERICAN ACTIONS BY ANY GROUP.

5. REPORTS WE ARE JUST NOW RECEIVING (1030Z) INDICATE MPLA FORCES ARE LAUNCHING A MAJOR GROUND ATTACK UPON THE FNLA HQ. ALSO WE ARE HEARING REPORTS THAT BLACKS IN ONE OF THE LARGEST AND MOST WAR-TORN GHETTOS, CAZENGA, ARE ON A RAMPAGE, RIOTING AND LOOTING IN THE SEVERAL LARGE FACTORIES IN THE REGION. EXPLOSIONS CONTINUE TO BE HEARD EVERY FEW MINUTES THROUGHOUT THE CITY. KILLORAN

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